



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held January 11, 2005, the Board took the following action:

3 and 52

The following item was called up for consideration:

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The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect's recommendation to request the Coroner, District Attorney, Sheriff and the Director of Children and Family Services to continue to support the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect's (ICAN's) efforts to collect data and provide notification of surrenders/abandonment; also instruct the Directors of Children and Family Services, Health Services, Public Social Services and Mental Health to continue to support the effort's of ICAN's Speaker's Bureau to educate public and private entities in conducting training on safely surrendered newborns, with all County Departments conducting training on safely surrendered newborns to emphasize that concerned individuals should reach out to women they believe may be pregnant rather than reinforcing denial of pregnancy; request that the findings and recommendations of ICAN's report entitled "Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infants in Los Angeles County" be utilized in the collaborative efforts of ICAN and the Children's Planning Council as they reconvene the Safe Haven Task Force, and to jointly report back to the Board at the meeting of March 8, 2005.

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Supervisor Knabe's recommendation to adopt the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect's attached recommendations relating to the report on "Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infants in Los Angeles County"; and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer and the affected departments to assist and support the reconvened Safe Haven Task Force with staff and other resources needed by the Task Force.

Deanne Tilton, Executive Director, and Patricia Sleeper, Program Administrator of the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, and Yvonne Michelle Autry addressed the Board.

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After discussion, Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“The County of Los Angeles has seen a drastic reduction in the amount of abandoned babies since our efforts to inform the public about California’s Safe Haven Law which began in 2002. This pioneering law, allows a mother to safely surrender her baby within three days of birth at any designated safe surrender location, no questions asked.

“On my motion, the Board of Supervisors created the Safe Haven Task Force with the direction to pull community leaders and children’s advocates together to establish recommendations to the Board on how best to implement the Law.

“The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) has been a leader in the County’s efforts to end the senseless act of abandoning babies in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors thanks ICAN for its outstanding service to the residents of the County by helping to further our goal of zero babies abandoned in Los Angeles County.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect’s attached recommendations relating to the report on “Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infants in Los Angeles County”; and
2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and the affected departments to assist and support the reconvened Safe Haven Task Force with staff and other resources needed by the Task Force.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel
Coroner
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Health Services
Director of Public Social Services
Director of Mental Health

Letters sent to:

Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on
Child Abuse and Neglect
District Attorney
Sheriff